WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:
receiving a specification for translating a network policy from a first schema to a second, different schema;
translating the network policy into the second different schema based on the specification; and
configuring a network system based on the translated policy.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the network policy is represented in a tag-based language.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification is received in a file from a policy server.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the file also contains the policy.

5. An article comprising a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions for checking events performed by a device, the instructions causing a machine to:
receive a specification for translating a policy from a first schema to a second different schema;
translate the network policy into the second different schema based on the specification; and
configure a network system based on the translated policy.

6. The article of claim 5 wherein the network policy is represented in eXtensible Markup Language and the specification is represented in eXtensible Stylesheet Language.

7. The article of claim 5 wherein the specification is received in a file from a policy server.

8. The article of claim 5 wherein the file also contains the policy.

9. An apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores computer readable instructions; and

a processor which executes the computer readable instructions to:

receive a specification for translating a policy from a first schema to a second, different schema;

translate the network policy into the second different schema based on the specification; and

configure a network system based on the translated policy.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the network policy is represented in eXtensible Markup Language and the specification is represented in eXtensible Stylesheet Language.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the specification is received in a file from a policy server.

12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the file also contains the policy.

13. A method, comprising:

storing a network policy for configuring a network system according to a first schema;

storing a specification for translating the network policy from the first schema to a second different schema;

translating the network policy into the second different schema based on the specification; and

sending the translated network policy to a client computer.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
prior to translating the network policy:
sending the network policy to the client computer;
sending the specification for translating the network policy to the client computer; and
receiving an indication that the client computer cannot translate the network policy.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the network policy is represented in eXtensible Markup Language and the specification is represented in eXtensible Stylesheet Language.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the network policy and the specification are stored in one file.

17. An article comprising a computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable instructions for checking events performed by a device, the instructions causing a machine to:
store a network policy for configuring a network system according to a first schema;
store a specification for translating the network policy from the first schema to a second different schema;
translate the network policy into the second different schema based on the specification; and
send the translated network policy to a client computer.

18. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to:
prior to translating the network policy:
send the network policy to the client computer;
send the specification for translating the network policy to the client computer; and
receive an indication that the client computer cannot translate the network policy.

19. The article of claim 17 wherein the network policy is represented in eXtensible Markup Language and the specification is represented in eXtensible Stylesheet Language.

20. The article of claim 17 wherein the network policy and the specification are stored in one file.

21. An apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores computer readable instructions;

a processor which executes the computer readable instructions to:

store a network policy for configuring a network system according to a first schema;

store a specification for translating the network policy from the first schema to a second different schema;

translate the network policy into the second different schema based on the specification; and

send the translated network policy to a client computer.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein, prior to translating the network policy, the processor executes the instructions to:

send the network policy to the client computer;

send the specification for translating the network policy to the client computer; and

receive an indication that the client computer cannot translate the network policy.

23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the network policy is represented in eXtensible Markup Language and the specification is represented in eXtensible Stylesheet Language.

24. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the network policy and the specification are stored in one file.

25. A method of configuring a network comprising:

transmitting a network policy according to a first schema and a specification for translating the network policy from the first schema to a second different schema from a server;

receiving the network policy and the specification on a first client computer;

translating on the client computer the network policy from the first schema to the second different schema using the specification; and

configuring the network system on the first client computer using on the translated network policy.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving the network policy on a second client computer; and

configuring the network system on the second client computer using on the network policy.

27. The method of claim 25 further comprising:

receiving the network policy on a third client computer;

transmitting to the server an indication that the third client computer cannot translate the network policy;

translating on the server the network policy from the first schema to the second different schema using the specification; and

transmitting the translated network policy to the third client computer.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the network policy is represented in eXtensible Markup Language and the specification is represented in eXtensible Stylesheet Language.

29. The method of claim 27 wherein the network policy and the specification are contained in one file.

30. A method of creating a file for configuring a network system comprising:

adding network data to the file; and

adding a specification for translating the network data from a first schema to a second schema.